

KAM *gpc/cur*

RESOLUTION NO. 6 - 2012

RECOGNIZING the lifelong contributions of Judge William McClain and expressing Council's sincere appreciation for his efforts and accomplishments as a local pioneer whose goal was to improve the quality of life and pave the way for countless African Americans in the legal profession.

WHEREAS, Judge William McClain became the first African-American member of the Cincinnati Lawyers Club in 1947 and the Cincinnati Bar Association in 1950; and

WHEREAS, Judge McClain became Cincinnati's first African-American Assistant Solicitor in 1942, and first African-American Solicitor in 1963, a post he held until 1972; and

WHEREAS, in 1972 Judge McClain became the first African-American to serve in a major Cincinnati law firm upon joining Keating, Muething & Klekamp; and

WHEREAS, Judge McClain became the first African-American to serve as Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge (1975-76), the first African-American Hamilton County Municipal Court judge (1977-78), and the first African-American Hamilton County Municipal Court trial referee (1979-1980); and

WHEREAS, Judge McClain has educated and mentored many aspiring attorneys, serving as adjunct professor of law at the University of Cincinnati Law School from 1963-72 and at the Salmon P. Chase Law School from 1965-72; and

WHEREAS, Judge McClain has earned numerous prestigious awards, most notably: the Ellis Island Gold Medal of Honor (1997), the Race Relations Award from the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission (1997), the National Bar Association Hall of Fame (1986), and a certificate of honor from the Board of Directors of the NAACP for outstanding civic contributions in Cincinnati in the field of race relations (1942); and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Judge McClain was named one of the Great Living Cincinnatians for being one of the nation's most respected attorneys, and in April 2002, the University of Michigan conferred on him an honorary doctor of law degree; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That this Council recognizes the lifelong contributions of Judge William McClain and expresses Council's sincere appreciation for his efforts and accomplishments as a community leader and pioneer in his field.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be sent to Judge McClain of Cincinnati.

Passed: February 1, 2012

Attest: Missi A. [Signature]
Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Yvette Simpson